

ARBORIVITAL MEDICINE.

BEING AN INQUIRY INTO THE CURATIVE POWERS OF SOME OF
OUR COMMON FIELD AND GARDEN PLANTS, JUDGED
OF BY THE DISEASES OF THE EAR.

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(Continued from December, 1893.)

VIOLA ODORATA.

LEMNA MINOR.

IN my last article on *viola odorata* a case is given where : “ Ear discharges profusely and general improvement sets in after *viola odorata* ϕ A in a child of seventeen months who had been affected with recurring otorrhœa from birth. Noises in both ears with deafness disappeared ”

I return to this case to lay stress upon the fact that two other children of the same parents, were said to have died from discharges of the ears coming on in the same unaccountable manner ; and also to substitute in the last sentence of this paragraph for the word “ Noises ” that of “ Discharges ”—both ears having been subject to

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discharge, the right being the worst. The next day after *viola odorata* ϕA a great deal of green nasty smelling discharge came from the right ear with immediate improvement in the condition of the child ; from being drowsy and listless she became bright and intelligent.

This case goes, I think, to confirm more pointedly than report would indicate the influence of *viola odorata* upon the lateral sinuses.

Since writing the article referred to I have treated a case of additional interest in connection with *viola*, one which had been diagnosed by an oculist of reputation as due to chronic choroiditis. The case came under my care in this way. During my summer holiday when staying in North Wales, prompted by a sense of racial respect, I started with my son upon the unusual and lugubrious occupation of making pilgrimage to the shrine of my great grandfather.

My dear old ancestor's carcase, it may be interesting to know, has peacefully lain since the year of our Lord 1797 upon a gentle slope overlooking the Vale of Clwyd, in an unpronounceable churchyard. Let us hope his descendant, like him, when the time is up, *Requiescat in pace*.

The church and its surroundings is under the careful and devoted charge of a dear old rector ; who, though well beyond the Psalmist's allotted age of man, lives in terrestrial bliss with his only daughter.

The latter on the day of our visit had passed a time of much suffering, and had had much difficulty in appearing at afternoon tea ; for the last twenty years she had been subject to attacks of fearful headache, which began suddenly and without, as far as she could tell, any assignable cause.

The symptoms for these twenty years have not undergone much change ; always a throbbing under the right temple and under the right eye, sometimes flying over to the other side for a short time before going away. Sometimes gets an attack in every week and sometimes one in two or three weeks, and occasionally in the course of these twenty years has had freedom from an attack for as long as two months. Has been under several country doctors, and several years ago was under our Mr. Ayerst, whose treatment for a time improved her. After that was under a very prominent consultant, who attributed the attacks to weakness, and gave strong tonics and ordered freedom from fatigue and plenty of nourishment, which benefited for a time.

Oculists also have been consulted from time to time owing to the

disturbance of vision, and one prominent oculist declared the case to be undoubtedly one of choroiditis, and likely in time to cause deprivation of vision.

There is not much catamenial disturbance ; though the last seizure was worse than usual and seemed aggravated by period being before time and excessive. About the 30th of August I gave a dose of camphor bromide 3x without any demonstrable effect ; and on my return home, about the 11th of September, I sent a powder of *viola odorata*, ϕA .

A letter received dated October 2, 1893, will explain the result. “ Dear Dr. Cooper, I took the powder you kindly sent me the morning it arrived as directed ; the next day I had a headache, but not in the usual place under the right temple, but quite on the top of my head ; the attack only lasted one day, and I have not had a seizure since. I am hoping the powder has evicted the pain from its old domicile, and trust this is a favorable symptom. There are only two symptoms in connection with my eyes : occasional irritation and pain through the eyeballs. When the weather is light and dry my sight is fairly good, but on dull wet days there is a good deal of dimness, sometimes the print of a newspaper or book appears blurred. Mr. G—— the —— oculist says my eyes are very much diseased and that they are covered internally with spots ; also that there is more disease in the right but less light in the left. He states that the disease is caused by delicate health, and that the headaches are brought on by the state of my eyes. . . . I have nearly been dosed to death, I am perfectly sure I have taken enough physic to stock a small shop. Many times I was reduced to such a state of weakness by powerful medicine that I could scarcely stand.” The date of the above letter was October 2, 1893. On my subsequently making inquiry as to the eye symptoms I received, on the 19th of October, the following letter. “ Dear Dr. Cooper : Many thanks for your letter. I intended writing in a day or two. I thought I would wait a little while to see how my head would behave ; it *tried* to ache last Monday, but I am glad to say it failed. I had just a few twinges in the morning—after breakfast I was all right. I have been really wonderfully well lately and free from pain ; and thanks to your kind treatment I have had a fine time as far as my health is concerned. I think my sight is better, for I never suffer from irritation nor pain in my eyes ; at one time the irritation was almost distracting ; and there is not so much dimness of vision when the weather is dull and cloudy. I can certainly see far better

to read and write than I could in the summer. Some months ago I was constantly leaving out words or letters owing to my sight.

“ I cannot assign a reason for this improvement except increased strength under your kind care. I really do not know how to express my thanks. Life was at one time almost a burden, I was so often down with headache, and generally the visitation lasted for several days.”

In connection with the above case I would draw forcible attention to some of the symptoms in the proving of *viola odorata*, as showing a decided “ pitch ” upon the interior of the eye-ball : “ Oppression in the eye-ball ; heat and burning the eyes. Fiery appearances before the eyes. Stinging in the eyes. A fiery semicircle before the eyes.”

LEMNA MINOR, the common duckweed ; natural order, aroideæ, or, according to some botanists, pistiaceæ.

“ The lowest form of phœnogamous vegetation. It consists,” says Lindley, “ of lenticular floating fronds, composed of stem and leaf together, and bearing the flowers in slits in the edge.” It forms the green scum found on stagnant ponds and dykes. It is found in two varieties, the *lemna minor* and the *lemna gibba*. In the specimen experimented with, both were found growing together.

Before going any further I may as well at once make a bald as well as a bold statement, and say that the special province of *lemna minor* is to pitch with vigor upon the nostrils ; from the very moment I began prescribing it, this was beyond question evident. I can think of no possible source of error except that this beneficial action may be due to the germs adhering to the fronds of the *lemna* rather than to the pure plant-force.

To guard against this I have carefully filtered my tincture, but this has not made the slightest change in its beneficial influence.

Case I.—Woman aged 74 ; admission date, Sept. 24, 1892. Nose never clear ; breath very unpleasant ; for 12 hours nose bled continuously last Christmas ; unable to smell properly ; hearing for the past seven or eight weeks bad ; watch not heard on contact. Prescribed *lemna minor* ϕ A. Oct. 1, 1892 : Feeling of cold in the nose is better ; sense of obstruction nearly gone ; can smell better ; hears on contact on both sides ; no medicine. Oct. 22 : Decided, though slight improvement in hearing ; nose, throat, and all the parts around more comfortable. Last attendance.

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